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DETAIL FEEDBACK

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Q1. Discuss the key factors contributing to the low fiscal capacity of local self-governments in India. Also, highlight some innovative financing mechanisms that augment the fiscal resources of local bodies in India.

प्रश्न 1. भारत में स्थानीय स्वशासन संस्थाओं की निम्न राजकोषीय क्षमता के प्रमुख कारणों पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, स्थानीय निकायों के वित्तीय संसाधनों को बढ़ाने वाले कुछ नवाचारी वित्तीय तंत्रों को उजागर कीजिए।

(Answer in 150 words)

Ans) The recent release of Panchayat performance index - 2024 by the Ministry of MoPR remihyats raj highlighted the fiscal adversity of local self-governments in India.

Factor contributing to low fiscal capacity

- ① lack of manpower for collection of fees / taxes
- ② very few states have devolved power to collect taxes to the LSG, as taxing power is at discretion of the state govt. under Art. 243G.
- ③ Tied funds from state × central government reduces fiscal autonomy.
eg. Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan
Saurashtra Shiksha Abhiyaan funds
- ④ low own source ^(OSR) Revenue at abysmal 0.47% (one of the lowest) of GDP Brazil / S. Africa 6-7% of GDP

⑤ Financial irregularities and corruption at different administrative level reduces fund availability at local levels

eg. PM Awas yojana funds in Bihar → alleged mis appo.

⑥ monetary financing mechanisms

① Enhancing Technological integration to direct digital transfers.

eg. DBT

② Blockchain Based fund disbursement system with centralized ledger for accountability.

③ Empowering LSH to raise market funds from stock market via IPOs.
 (Based on Municipal Bond model)
 → Based on credit worthiness.

④ Community funding model inspired from cooperative sector.

Fiscal empowerment of LSH is crucial from democratic decentralisation's Real intent realization.

Feedback (For office use only)
Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Penalty (If any)
Total

Q2. Discuss the various merits and demerits of bringing political parties under Right to Information Act 2005.

प्रश्न 2. राजनीतिक दलों को सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005 के अंतर्गत लाने के विभिन्न लाभ और हानियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(Answer in 150 words)

Ans) Recent Supreme Court Judgement In the Electoral Bonds Case highlights the need for transparency in functioning of political parties.

• Merits of bringing political parties within RTI Act '2005 →

① Enhancing intraparty democracy and sturdy internal elections.

② Transparency and information regarding political funding → clearing any scope of alleged industrial-political nexus.
(Vidajit Gupta & Disha Wadhvani Committee)

↳ State funding of elections

③ Information accessibility to the Criminal Records and performance Records of the members & collectively.

④ Clarity of party manifesto and Accountability to the promises made to public.

⑤ Political parties need to ensure their Audits and financial records, leading to prohibition of Quid pro Quo & money laundering charges.

Demerits of inclusion →

- ① Undermining confidential decision making regarding Electoral competitions, Rivals and strategies.
- ② Issues of vexatious and frivolous RTIs, (weapozization of RTI)
- ③ Threat to organisational autonomy as pol. parties are voluntary associations under Art. 19(1)(c).
- ④ Already existential oversight mechanisms via ECI, IT dept, RPA, L&ST, ED.
- ⑤ Inclusion under RTI will overload already burdened procedural mechanisms of institution.
Partial inclusion focusing on Relevant information to balance transparency with autonomy is a better way ahead.

Feedback (For office use only)
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Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Penalty (if any)
Total

Q3. What are the constitutional and legal provisions pertaining to Administrative Tribunals in India? Do you think tribunal needs reform?

प्रश्न 3. भारत में प्रशासनिक अधिकरणों से संबंधित संवैधानिक और कानूनी प्रावधानों का वर्णन कीजिए। क्या आपको लगता है कि इन अधिकरणों में सुधार की आवश्यकता है?

(Answer in 150 words)

Ans) 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act 1978 provided for creation of Administrative Tribunals under Art. 323 A of the constitution.

- Swaran Singh Committee Recommended its formulation.

◦ Constitutional provisions →

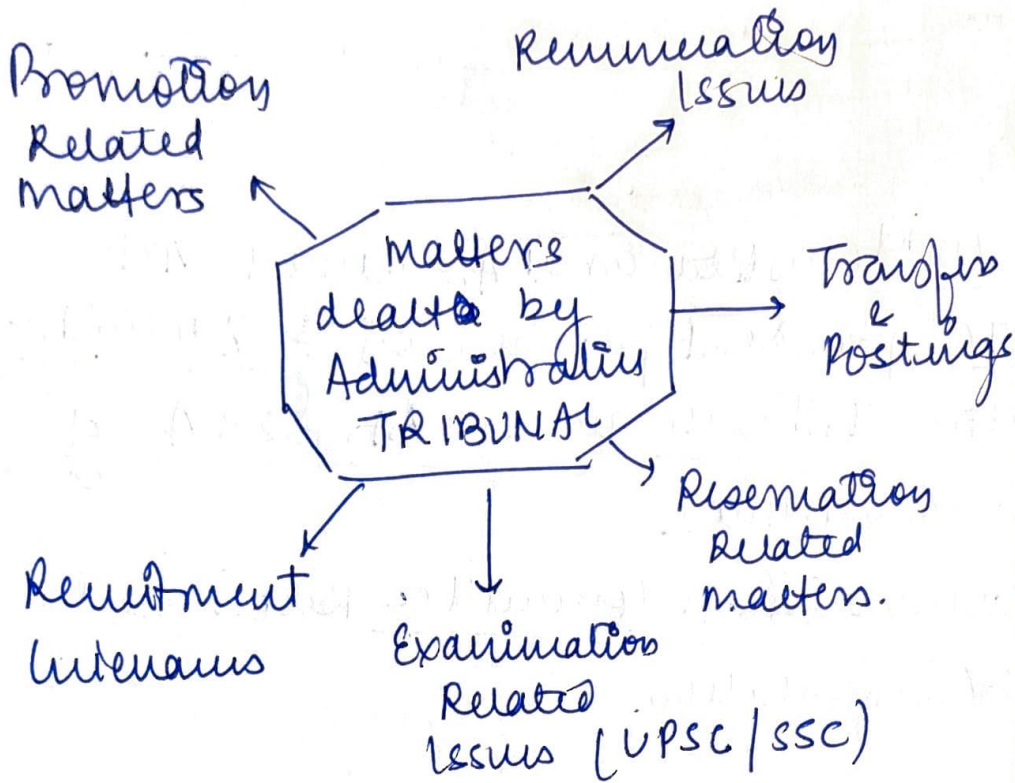
Art 323 A → provides for formation of Administrative Tribunals by law.

(Parliament can pass a law to form Tribunal for adm. matters)

◦ Legal provisions → Principles of Natural Justice
power of civil court
Procedural autonomy

Administrative Tribunals Act 1985

- provided for creation of central admin. Tribunal and also for states as only Centre can form adm. Tribunals for States under Art 323 A.



◦ Need of Reforms →

- ① Even though govt. had brought Tribunal Reforms Act 2021 (2021), certain issues still persist.
 - ② challenge of Tribunal judgments to High Court (hinders the entire purpose of reducing delays) → Lo Chandra Kumar Judgment 2013
 - ③ Delays in appointments of members and chairperson → faster appt.
 - ④ lack of awareness in public → campaigns
 - ⑤ procedural complexity persists → easing them
 - ⑥ increasing no. of benches across India.
- Tribunals are essential to enhance ADR

Feedback (For office use only)
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Question Interpretation
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Value Addition
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Q4. The recent judgement of the Supreme Court related to the appointment of Chief Election Commissioner and other election commissioners is a welcome step, but several other issues still affecting the functioning of the institution. Discuss. Also suggest necessary reforms to strengthen the election watchdog.

प्रश्न 4. मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त एवं अन्य चुनाव आयुक्तों की नियुक्ति से संबंधित हालिया सर्वोच्च न्यायालय का निर्णय स्वागतयोग्य है, परंतु चुनाव आयोग की कार्यप्रणाली को प्रभावित करने वाले अनेक अन्य मुद्दे अब भी विद्यमान हैं। इन मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए तथा संस्था को सुदृढ़ करने हेतु आवश्यक सुधार सुझाइए।

(Answer in 150 words)

Ans) In ANODP BARANWAL v. Union of India 2023 case, Supreme court exercised its powers under Art. 142 to fill the vacuum of law in appt. of CEC & EC under Art. 324(2)

Brief Background of Judgement

→ Art 324(2) provides for parliament to make law for CEC appt.

→ Parliament had not made any law

→ SC intervened to uphold independence of ECI, by make an election committee consisting

- ① PM
- ② CJI
- ③ CDP

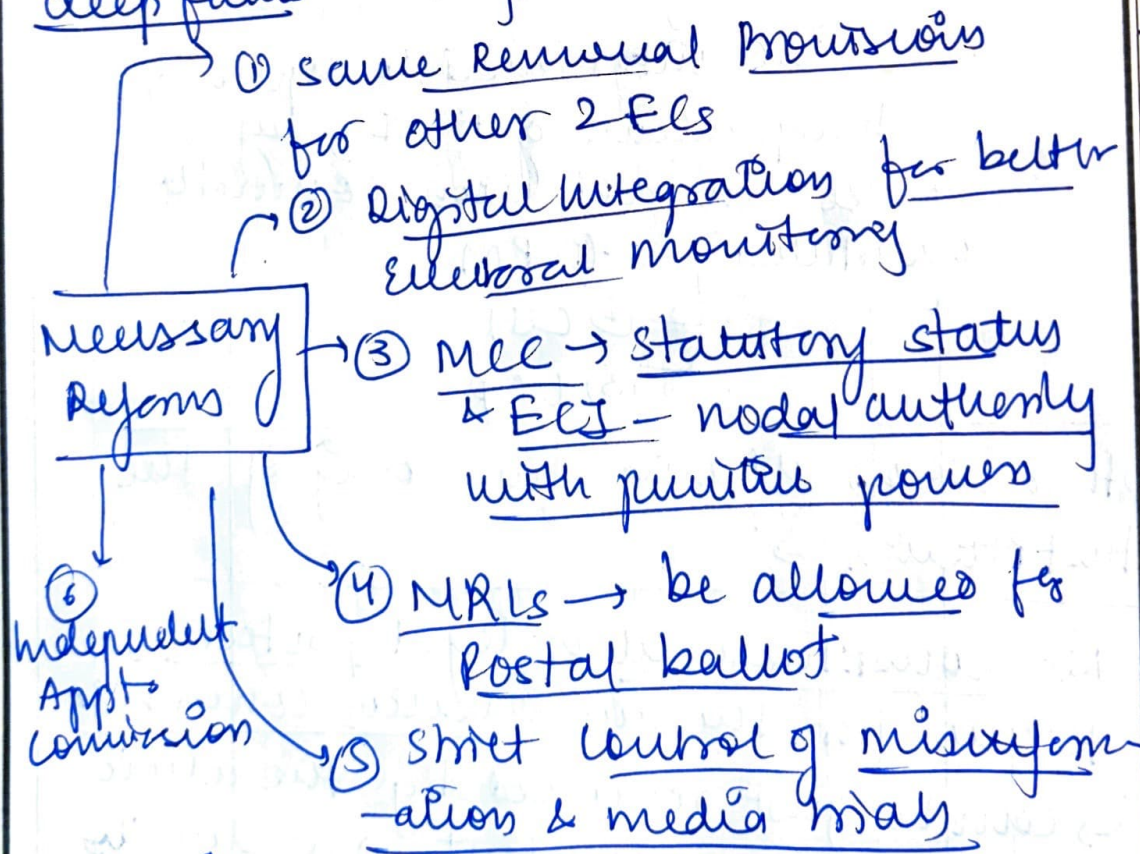
• Other issues affecting functioning of the institution →

① No constitutional or legal protection of tenure for the two election commissioners can be just removed by the advice of CEC by the president. → undermines independence

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- ② The new law passed by the parliament removed CJI from selection committee, reimposing executive dominance (2:1)
- ③ Lack of Mee enforcement & effective monitoring.
- ④ No punitive power to penalise violations.
- ⑤ Challenges in overseas / remote voting (NRI / migrant women ≠ postal ballot (not eligible))
- ⑥ Demerits of booth capturing, pay-off for votes, horse trading, misinformation, deep fakes during elections.



EES is the bedrock of democratic sustenance upholding free & fair elections

Feedback (For office use only)
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Question Interpretation
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Value Addition
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Q5. The emergence of cooperative federalism as a dominant discourse in India reflects a shift towards greater collaboration between the Centre and the States. Discuss the key drivers of this shift and its potential benefits.

प्रश्न 5. भारत में सहकारी संघवाद का उभरता विमर्श केंद्र और राज्यों के बीच बढ़ते सहयोग को दर्शाता है। इस परिवर्तन के प्रमुख प्रेरक कारकों तथा संभावित लाभों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(Answer in 150 words)

Ans) Art 1 of our constitution says India that is Bharat, shall be union of states highlighting the unifying spirit of Indian state involving cooperation for collective development.

◦ key drivers of this shift →

① Zonal councils - under CPA 1956

- 5 councils (North, west, south, central, East)

- NE council under NE Council Act 1971

- platform for regular deliberations & discussions.

② UST-council (279-A)

- collective decision making on fiscal matters (UST Rates)

③ FCI (AA 280)

- pan-India visits of FCI to ensure taking into a/c all interests of states

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before finalising resolutions.

④ Inter state council (2013)

platform for inter state discussions,
yet has been dormant for while

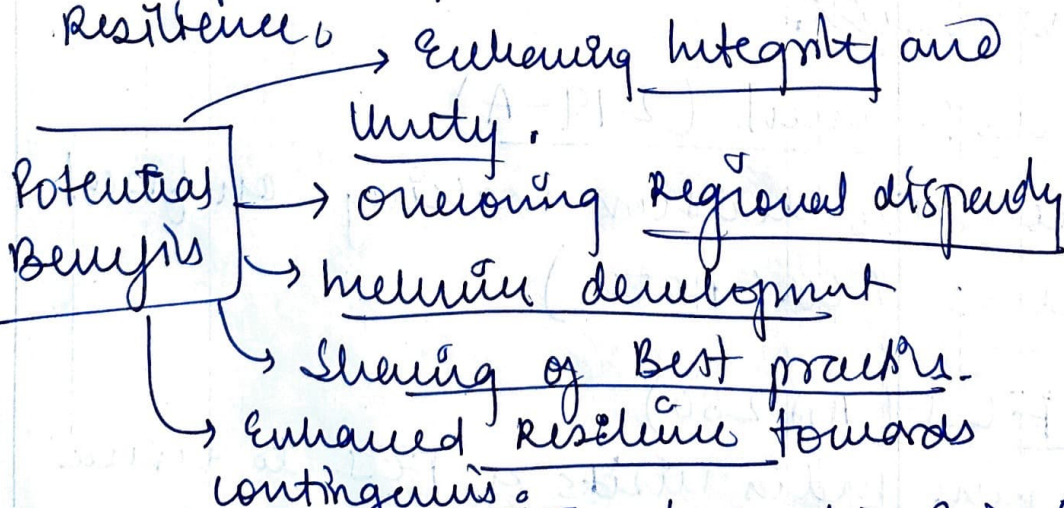
⑤ NITI Aayog (2015)

- Working unit meetings - recently
19th meeting in Delhi → platform
for setting vision & collective goals
for Indian discourse.

⑥ CPCB & SPCB

Cooperation between both boards
for effective pollution control and
Environmental Safeguards.

⑦ NDMA & SDMA - for collection
& unified response for effective
Resilience.



The spirit of cooperative federalism lies in
"Eid Bhalat Chushta Bhasat".

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Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Penalty (If any)
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Q6. Elaborate different types of emergency provisions provided by the constitution of India. State wide ranging effects these provisions have on fundamental rights, federalism and finances.

प्रश्न 6. भारतीय संविधान में प्रदत्त आपातकालीन प्रावधानों के विभिन्न प्रकारों को स्पष्ट कीजिए। साथ ही, इन प्रावधानों का मौलिक अधिकारों, संघीय ढांचे और वित्तीय प्रणाली पर पड़ने वाले व्यापक प्रभावों को बताइए।

(Answer in 150 words)

Ans) Part XX of the Indian Constitution provides for Emergency provisions, but imposition of President's Rule is manipulated has highlighted these provisions again in highlight.

• Types of Emergencies & Impact →

A) National Emergency (Art. 352)

→ can be imposed nation wide or part of it.

→ passed within 1 month of Presidential proclamation on Cabinet Recommendation.

Impacts

① Fundamental Rights →

Art. 358 → Art 19 is automatically suspended, if on grounds of foreign threat or war.

Art. 359 → Other FRs can be suspended by presidential order except Art. 20 & Art 21

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Q7. The platform of r...

② Federalism → State governments can be dismissed & legislatures can be dissolved
 ↓
State list subjects
 ↳ Union can make law (Art. 250)

③ Finance → full control of the Union expenditure and obeyance of Fel mandates.

B) (Art-356) President's Rule → either by President or on Report of governor due to failure of State Constitutional machinery.
 ↓
 Passed by Parliament within 2 months

Impact on federalism → State Executive is dismissed
 ↳ Legislatures can be dissolved.
 ↳ Parliament makes laws on behalf of president

- No impact on fundamental rights & finance.

c) Financial Emergency (Art 360) → Federalism - fiscal control by Union
 ↳ FR - No impact
 ↳ Finance → complete control by Union government.
 ↳ Salaries can be reduced
 ↳ Emergency provision should be used with high caution.

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Penalty (If any)
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Q7. The Supreme Court recently expressed worry about the regulation of content on OTT platforms, calling for legislative action to address obscene and immoral material. Discuss the issues of regulating OTT material in India, taking into account regulatory organisations' overlapping authorities and the need to balance free expression with societal sensitivities.

प्रश्न 7. हाल ही में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने ओटीटी प्लेटफॉर्म पर सामग्री के विनियमन के बारे में चिंता व्यक्त की, अश्लील और अनैतिक सामग्री को संबोधित करने के लिए विधायी कार्रवाई का आह्वान किया। नियामक संगठनों के अतिव्यापी प्राधिकरणों और सामाजिक संवेदनशीलता के साथ मुक्त अभिव्यक्ति को संतुलित करने की आवश्यकता को ध्यान में रखते हुए भारत में ओटीटी सामग्री को विनियमित करने के मुद्दों पर चर्चा करें।

(Answer in 150 words)

Ans) In the recent Uday Mahurkar v/s DoI 2025 case, Supreme court expressed its serious concern regarding rising Obscenity and moral decay in OTT platforms highlighting the legislative void in the domain.

• Key issues in Regulating OTT in India →

- ① No statutory framework and legislative void.
- ② Fragmented Regulatory Structure & multiple authorities overlap (Meity, CBFC, MoI&B)
- ③ Over reliance on self regulation & weak enforcement of rules. (IT Intermediary Guidelines & Digital Media Ethics code, 2021) → subordinate work → without peremptory sanction (Art 19(1)(a))
- ④ Freedom of creative expression v/s. Societal Morality (Art. 19(2)).

Q8. Const Explain

- ⑤ Absence of Age graded Censorship like U/A / U/A+, etc.
- ⑥ Ease of Accessibility and lack of parental control → many many apps like Altbalaji, Netflix, Prime, etc.

◦ Regulatory Bodies and Overlap →

- ① MoI & B
 - ② MeITY
 - ③ CBFC
 - ④ TRAI
 - ⑤ Self Regulatory Bodies like IAMA
- Overlap of Codes
- Technical Specifications and censorship
- Enforceability and public action

◦ Balancing free expression & societal Sensitivity

- ① Statutory framework for OTT Regulation
- ② Censorship of Innuendo, Obscene & Vulgar scenes that goes against public decency, morality & order → Art 19(2)

③ Efficient parental controls & child safety via age graded certification

"Cinema is often called the Reflection of society" but it should also be versed with the fact that it also influences the creation of that reflection.

Feedback (For office use only)
Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
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Value Addition
Penalty (If any)
Total

Q8. Constitutional Morality' is rooted in the constitution itself and is founded on its essential facets. Explain the doctrine of Constitutional Morality' with the help of relevant judicial decisions.

प्रश्न 8. 'संवैधानिक नैतिकता' संविधान में निहित है और इसके मौलिक तत्वों पर आधारित है। उपयुक्त न्यायिक निर्णयों की सहायता से 'संवैधानिक नैतिकता' सिद्धांत को समझाइए।

(Answer in 150 words)

Ans) The realisation of the constitutional values and its essence beyond the literal letter of the constitution is the constitutional morality.

• Constitutional Morality Rooted in the constitution itself →

① Democratic decentralisation and accountability to the masses. (ART 40 & 75(3))

② Coherence of the law within the tenets of fundamental rights (ART. 13)
(PART-III)

The source of Judicial Review

③ The vision of a just, equitable & fair society with inclusivity.
Preamble / ART. 39(b), (c) / ART 14 / ART. 46

④ The endeavours of a clean, green & sustainable environment and wildlife protection. eg. ART. 48A, Fundamental duty (51A)

⑤ A society without discrimination on Religion, gender, caste class & equal opportunities. (ART. 15, 16, 25-30, 39(a)(d)).

• Doctrine of constitutional morality with judgements →

① Upholding the federal nature of Indian state - SR Bommai '1994

② Climate conscious behaviour & state policy - MC Mehta '1995 and MK Ranjith Singh '2024

③ Right of individual to marry a person of his choice - Hadiya case '2018

④ Individual's right to privacy & dignity (Kutusmany case '2017)

⑤ Ensuring independence of judiciary & separation of powers (4th Judges case '2015)
↳ struck down 99th CAA 2015 (NIAA)

⑥ Legislature's limited power to amend the constitution and the BASIC STRUCTURE doctrine → Keshavananda Bharati '1975

⑦ Protecting women's dignity and safety at workplace (Vishalika v/s St. of R '1997)

⑧ Upholding citizens freedom of speech & expression Art 19(1)(a) → Shreya Singhal (striking 66A of IT Act) v/s UOI '2015

→ mission, equitable, fair governance lies in due compliance to consto morality.

Feedback (For office use only)
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Content
Value Addition
Penalty (If any)
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Q9. The Indian Constitution is one of the most comprehensive and well-drafted constitutions characterized by its intricate features, blending democratic principles, and socio-economic justice. In light of the statement, write salient features of the Indian Constitution.

प्रश्न 9. भारतीय संविधान एक विस्तृत और सुव्यवस्थित संविधान है जो लोकतांत्रिक मूल्यों और सामाजिक-आर्थिक न्याय के मिश्रण को दर्शाता है। इस कथन के आलोक में भारतीय संविधान की प्रमुख विशेषताओं को लिखिए।

(Answer in 150 Words)

Ans) Indian constitution, with 395 articles, 25 parts, 12 schedules is the longest and most exhaustive constitution ever written in the world.

Salient features of the constitution

A) Salient features

① Quasi-flexibility - Art. 368 v/s Art 13
 ↳ can evolve with changing dynamics
 ↳ but Fundamental rights & Basic structure cannot be changed.

② Quasi federal polity with unitary bias

↳ emergency provisions (Art. 352/356)
 ↳ office of governor (Art. 153)

③ Constitutional Supremacy and effective checks & balances between legislature, executive and judiciary.

◦ Blending democratic principles and socio-economic justice →

- ① Seed of parliamentary democracy under Art. 75(3)
- ② Democratic decentralisation via 73rd & 74th amendment 1992 & Art 40
- ③ Socio economic justice via ideas in manures & policy guidance through DPSPs (part IV) & FR (P-III)
 - a) Art 39(b) & (c) - equitable wealth distribution
 - b) Art 15, 16, 14, 17
 - c) Art. 41, 46, 38, 39 (DPSP)
- ④ Universal adult franchise to all citizens above 18 yrs (Art 326)
- ⑤ Democratic institutions ensuring socio-economic justice →
 - a) NESIT - 338A e) UST-C (279A)
 - b) FCI - 280 H) CAU - 148
 - c) MSBC - 338B g) ECI - 324
 - d) NCSC - 338
- ⑥ Independent & empowered judiciary.
(Art 124, 142)

Indian constitution is the exemplification of ideas of JUSTICE, EQUITY, PROGRESSIVE, DEMOCRACY crucial for UNESIT Bharat 2017

Feedback (For office use only)
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Q10. "India's evolving partnership with Saudi Arabia reflects a shift from transactional energy ties to a comprehensive strategic alliance." Discuss the key drivers of this transformation and its implications for India's role in West Asia.

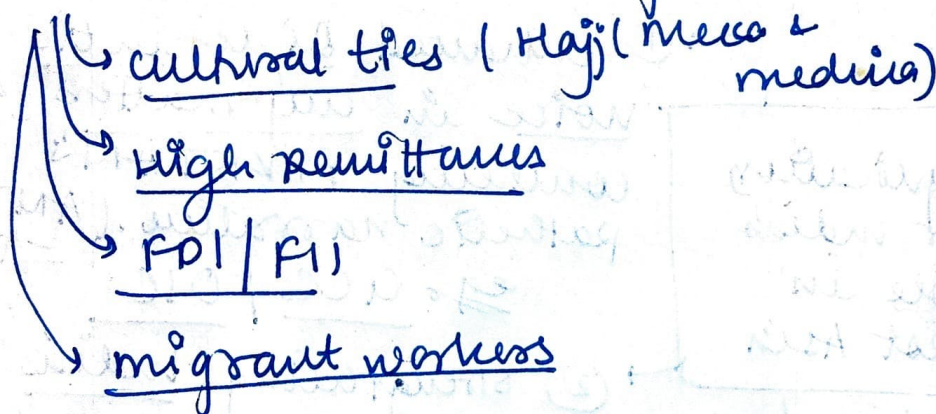
प्रश्न 10. "सऊदी अरब के साथ भारत की उभरती हुई साझेदारी लेन-देन संबंधी ऊर्जा संबंधों से व्यापक रणनीतिक गठबंधन की ओर बदलाव को दर्शाती है।" इस परिवर्तन के प्रमुख चालकों और पश्चिम एशिया में भारत की भूमिका के लिए इसके निहितार्थों पर चर्चा करें।

(Answer in 150 Words)

Ans) The recent visit of PM Modi to Saudi Arabia in Apr 2025 emphasized on the crucial relationship between the two countries and their transformations.

• key drivers of transformation →

① Sizeable diaspora of Indians origin in Saudi Arabia emerging →



② Transition from oil based hyposto to mutual renewable energy shift

to solar, wind & nuclear energy
→ under the ISA. → loss of Suez canal
→ st. of Hormuz

③ Enhanced cooperation in the maritime domains to ensure free & fair Indo-Pacific

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Q11. Indi
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④ Enhanced diplomatic cooperation & increased mutual military exercises.

eg. Sada Taseeq - 2024

③ Bilateral trade & investment enhance -ing to undertake source diversification to ensure supply chain resilience.

eg. China + 1 strategy

② Enhanced political engagements at high levels & frequent visits.

eg. Mohd bin Salman → INDIA 2023
PM Modi → SA 2025 (April)

① Enhanced diplomatic voice in key matters & countering PAKISTAN'S pathetic narrative. (ANTI-TERROR)
eg. ACC / DIC

Implication for India's Role in West Asia

② Strengthening India's diplomatic outreach and expert engagement.

③ widening the scope of IMEC enhancing European connectivity.

④ diplomatic led mutual role in their domestic policy engagement

- Saudi Arabia being largest middle east country. It is necessary to build strength to enhance western outreach.

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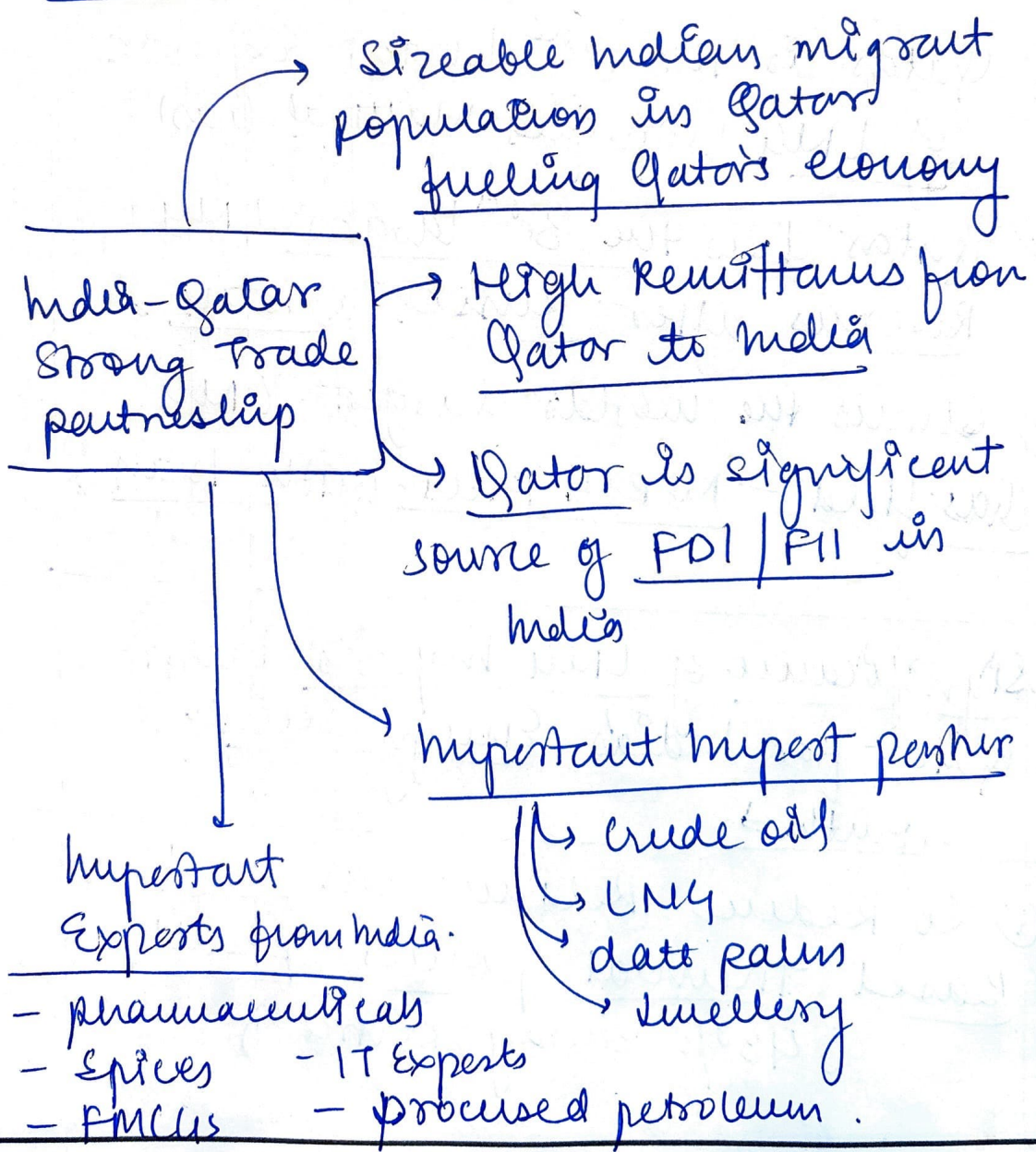
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Q11. India and Qatar have a strong trade relationship, particularly in the energy sector. Analyse the significance of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) imports from Qatar for India's energy security and economic growth.

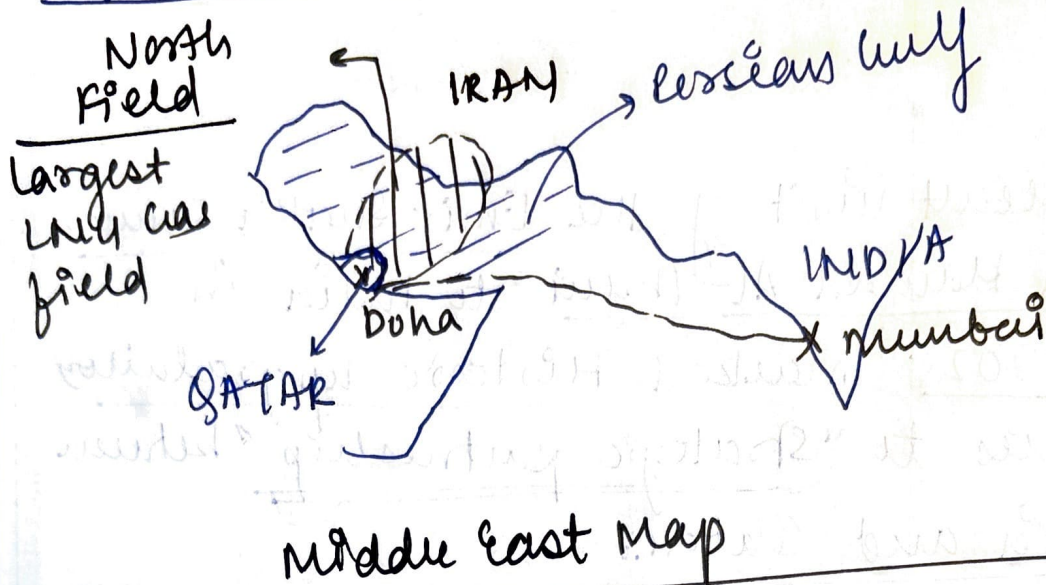
प्रश्न 11. भारत और कतर के बीच मजबूत व्यापारिक संबंध हैं, खासकर ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में। भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा और आर्थिक विकास के लिए कतर से तरलीकृत प्राकृतिक गैस (LNG) आयात के महत्व का विश्लेषण करें।

(Answer in 250 Words)

Ans) Recent visit of the Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani to India in Feb 2025 marked Historic upgradation of ties to "Strategic partnership" between India and Qatar.



◦ Qatar and the LNG dominance →



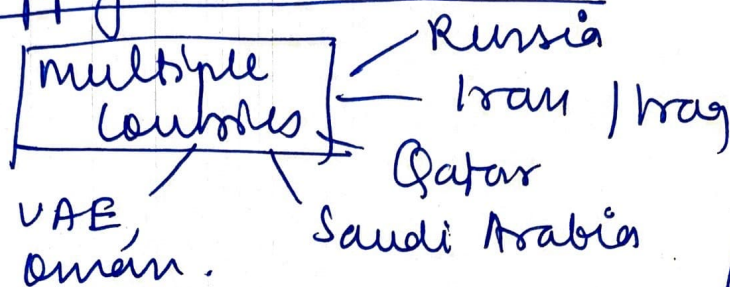
- ① Qatar is the 2nd largest exporter of LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas)
- ② Qatar has the 3rd largest LNG Reserves after Russia & Iran.
- ③ Shows the world's largest LNG Gas field - NORTH FIELD with Iran.

◦ Significance of LNG imports from Qatar for India's Energy Security & Growth →

- ① To Reduce Reliance on coal Based Thermal power plants:
(48% energy source)

② To ensure Green Transition and Reduce pollution as LNG is a Cleaner fuels

③ To diversify fuel sources to ensure supply chain Resilience.



→ as US & Qatar compete

④ To get competitive LNG Rates and Reduce domestic fuel cost enhancing India's development by Reducing inflation

⑤ To protect India from US and other Sanctions because of buying fuel from Russia (landlocked countries)
* IRAN

⑥ Reduce India's Current Account deficit by lowering oil imports & reducing LNG prices.

⑦ Stable LNG imports enhancing Industrial growth in Fertilizers, manufacturing and Urban sectors. → Economic growth.

India-Qatar Relations are essential for India's Energy security as well as for Global South-South cooperation.

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Q12. India's evolving digital infrastructure has played a key role in promoting inclusive education. Critically discuss the opportunities and challenges this transformation presents.

प्रश्न 12. भारत के उभरते डिजिटल बुनियादी ढांचे ने समावेशी शिक्षा को बढ़ावा देने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है। इस परिवर्तन से उत्पन्न अवसरों और चुनौतियों पर आलोचनात्मक रूप से चर्चा करें।

(Answer in 250 Words)

Ans India's Digital Revolution has played a crucial role in bridge gaps, boundaries, Regions and Education is no exception.

• Role of Digital Infrastructure in promoting Inclusive Education →

- ① SWAYAM portal → enhancing accessibility of classroom education from distant regions. (Regional disparity Bridging)
- ② Smart classes → Digital Boards enhancing learning outcome.
- ③ Beti padhao Beti Bachao → specific girls school being made with advanced digital classrooms → bridging gender inequality.
- ④ Eklanya model schools → with integrated digital monitors and ICT classrooms - enhancing Education in tribal areas
eg. (Sharkhawa Odisha MP)

- (5) e-pathshala model has enhanced school at home facilitation for students with benchmark disabilities (PwD).
- (6) newer technologies like audio books, Braille electronic Books, special visual hysographic modules for students with blindness, deafness, etc.

◦ Challenges in transformation →

- (1) lack of child friendly / PwD friendly infrastructure
- (2) lack of funds for digital transformation of schools and delays in fund disbursement under SSA.
- (3) lack of capacity building in Teachers & staff to operate digital instruments.
- (4) digital divide (only ~40% rural areas have internet access)

⑤ reluctance on part of teachers to use digital mediums in order to protect them from damage to stay away from accountability → defeats the whole purpose of digitalisation.

⑥ Corruption in tender allocation & Regulatory bottlenecks.

⑦ Lack of Public awareness.

① AI Integration to develop future ready children

② Teachers Training modules for smart class operations

Opportunities and way ahead

④ Effective fund allocation and development.

⑤ Enhancing internet access by strengthening Bharatnet Scheme

⑥ hyper-mutual development & efficient maintenance.

Digital Education can truly provide inclusive and holistic education, nurturing the leaders of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Q13. India's role in Africa is evolving beyond trade to include peacekeeping, capacity building, and infrastructure development. Critically examine how India can contribute to conflict resolution and sustainable development in Africa.

प्रश्न 13. अफ्रीका में भारत की भूमिका व्यापार से आगे बढ़कर शांति स्थापना, क्षमता निर्माण और बुनियादी ढांचे के विकास को भी शामिल करने की दिशा में बढ़ रही है। आलोचनात्मक रूप से जाँच करें कि भारत अफ्रीका में संघर्ष समाधान और सतत विकास में किस प्रकार योगदान दे सकता है।

(Answer in 250 Words)

Ans) Hon'ble PM Modi's recent visits to Uganda Namibia highlights ~~the~~ India's evolving role in African dynamics and Global South cooperation.

◦ India's Role in African dynamics →

A] Peacekeeping

① India contributes largest no. of personnel in the UN Peacekeeping force (UNPKF).

② Indian contingent had played crucial role in bringing peace in Abyei-Region (Sudan - South Sudan)

③ Liberia unrest → India played an important role in ending peace.

B] Capacity Building

① India has opened many skill centres in Africa.

② IIT Madras has opened a campus in Zanzibar - Tanzania providing Advanced Technology courses providing African students to gain quality Education and skills.

C] Infrastructure development →

① India has extended many many lines of credit at very low interest

rates for capital infrastructure development. eg. Sudan, Rwanda

② Solar infrastructure through International Solar Alliance (ISA)
eg. Uganda's solar park

③ Digital infrastructure

- VPI collaborations & ICT transfer
eg. Cambodia, Liberia

④ Social infrastructure → Mozambique, Ghana

↳ Railway & Transport projects
↳ Hospitals & schools
(Telemedicine & Teleeducation)

o India's contribution in Conflict Resolution & Sustainable development →

- ① winning hearts and minds of the people to gain trust & reputation of a reliable partner. (social infrastructure)
- ② Enhancing support via financial resources / grants / LOCs
- ③ strengthening multilateral institutional mechanisms for deliberations & engaging as mediator. eg. African Union Arbitration Body
- ④ Assist in their green transition via non-renewable energy investments.
eg. ISA
- ⑤ Enhance their disaster resilient infrastructure. eg. CDR (NDIAE)
- ⑥ New Delhi International Arbitration Centre → can provide good platforms for negotiations. eg. DRC-Rwanda conflict.

India-Africa relations are crucial for ensuring India's geostrategic presence in indispensable maritime domains as well as global south

Q14. Critically examine the role and relevance of Rajya Sabha in the Indian parliamentary system. Suggest some reforms to enhance its effectiveness and accountability.

प्रश्न 14. भारतीय संसदीय प्रणाली में राज्यसभा की भूमिका एवं प्रासंगिकता की समालोचनात्मक समीक्षा कीजिए। उसकी प्रभावशीलता और उत्तरदायित्व बढ़ाने हेतु कुछ सुधार सुझाइए।

(Answer in 250 Words)

Ans) Rajya Sabha is the upper house of the Indian parliament, officially called the Council of States, represents the interests of the states in the quasi-federal structure.

◦ Role of Rajya Sabha →

- ① General legislation during normal course of time.
- ② Highlight the issues of different states in National Parliament.
- ③ Equal Role in Constitutional Amendment Bills.
- ④ Authorising parliament to make laws on state list in certain cases. (Art. 249)
- ⑤ Creation of any new All India Service, needs authorisation & initiation by Rajya Sabha. (Art. 312)
e.g. IAS in 1966

- ⑥ Equal Role in impeachment of President, SC Judge, HC Judge, CAG, Ce.
- ⑦ Removal of Vice President can only be initiated in Rajya Sabha.
(AA 67(b))
- ⑧ Equal Role in post facto passage of ordinances (AA 123)

• Release of Rajya Sabha →

- ① To check on Hasty legislation and subvention of democratic process.
Ex. Farm laws
- ② To uphold State's interests in an period of increasing discord b/w centre and states. eg. Tamil Nadu, Kerala, WB
- ③ To ensure constitutional integrity by protecting it from undue amendments.

- (4) To uphold government accountability in cases of lok sabha's majoritarian composition by ruling party.
- (5) To ensure Judicial and institutional independence as their Removal Requisition of Rajya Sabha. eg^s CAJ, CEC, CJ, SCJ
- Reforms to enhance effectiveness and Accountability →
- ① longer sessions and more number of sittings.
 - ② enhancing the effectiveness of Rajya Sabha DRSCs, standing committees, joint comms by fixed working hours & institutional support.
 - ③ Equal power in Money Bill to ensure fiduciary integrity. (AP Shah committee)
 - ④ MP performance index & participation tracking + Attendance improvement.
 - ⑤ Improving transparency in Elections by Proportional Rep. syst with open Ballot to counter House badging.
- Rajya Sabha is the abstract guardian of cooperative federalism in India.

Q15. Examine the possibilities for India-Paraguay relations to strengthen India's engagement with Latin America. Discuss the strategic importance of their partnership in countering terrorism and addressing transnational threats like cybercrime and drug trafficking.

प्रश्न 15. लैटिन अमेरिका के साथ भारत के जुड़ाव को मजबूत करने के लिए भारत-पराग्वे संबंधों की संभावनाओं की जांच करें। आतंकवाद का मुकाबला करने और साइबर अपराध और मादक पदार्थों की तस्करी जैसे अंतरराष्ट्रीय खतरों से निपटने में उनकी साझेदारी के रणनीतिक महत्व पर चर्चा करें।

(Answer in 250 Words)

Ans) The recent visit of the Paraguayan President Santiago Peña Palacio to India in June 2025 opened new horizons of India-Paraguay relations.

◦ Gateway to Latin America → landlocked country

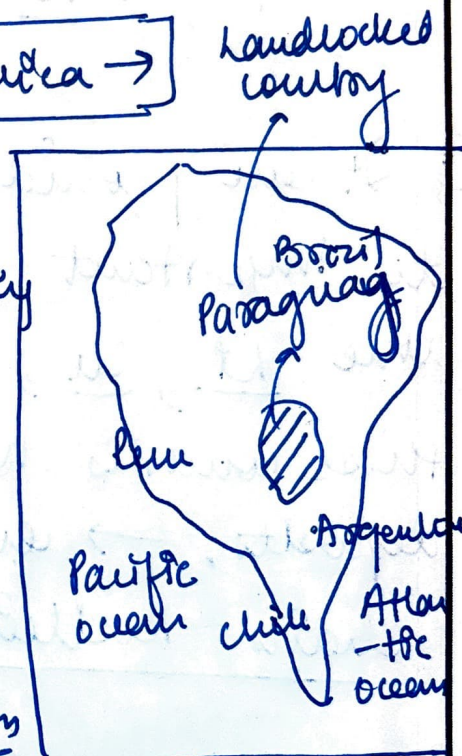
① Paraguay is member of MERCOSUR → provides India gateway to South American markets.

(Exports increase)

② Strengthening of Global South cooperation

③ Estb. of Joint Commission mechanism (JCM) to enhance institutional cooperation in different sectors.

④ Increased cooperation in Renewable Energy, Biofuels via ISA, UBA.



South America map

- ⑤ Providing India, new market opportunities to enhance defense exports. eg. BrahMos, Pinaka, Akash missile systems.
- ⑥ Enhanced cooperation in space sector via ISRO, providing launch services to Latin American countries through NSIL. eg. Paraguay (Cubsats)
- ⑦ It can provide crucial gateway to important strategic minerals like Li, Cu, Salt petre, REE, as these countries have their rich deposits. → ensuring India's supply chain resilience.
- ⑧ To garner wider South American support in global multilateral institutions and in bid for UNSC seat.
- ⑨ Enhance India's digital tech front in South America via VPI.

◦ Strategic Role in Anti-Terrorism and against Transnational crime →

① Paraguay condemned the horrific Rahalgam Terror attack and Affirmed its solidarity with India.

② South American countries are hotspot of drugs and gang violence, India can learn certain measures to control these menace in India.

③ Parallel cooperation in FATF to counter money laundering & fiscal crime.

④ Both are members of INTERPOL, enhancing cooperation in Transnational investigations via NOTICES.

⑤ Cooperation agreement between two countries for enhanced monitoring & action in domain of cyber crime, organised crime & drug trafficking.

India-Paraguay relations can be instrumental to widen India's sphere of influence in South America & amplify voice of Global South.

Q16. Analyze the challenges posed by India's aging population and suggest some measures to address those challenges.

प्रश्न 16. भारत की वृद्ध होती जनसंख्या से उत्पन्न चुनौतियों का विश्लेषण कीजिए तथा इनसे निपटने के लिए उपयुक्त उपाय सुझाइए।

(Answer in 250 Words)

Ans) According to the India Ageing Report 2023 published by UNFPA, India's aged population share (60+) would reach 20.80% highlighting significant burdening challenges.

• Challenges posed by India's Ageing Population →

- ① Increased dependency Ratio & load on working population.
- ② Increased fiscal load on social security, pensions and insurance.
- ③ Enhanced load on healthcare system
 - ↳ a) Increased incidence of non-communicable diseases (NCD) (BP, Sugar, cancer)
 - ↳ b) Increased issues of neurodegenerative disorders.
Eg. Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, dementia.

↳ c) increased issues of psychiatric disorders → Isolation, Anxiety, depression & PTSD

④ Decline in labour supply leading to decline in manufacturing output causing stall in GDP growth rate.

⑤ Reduced productivity in Agriculture & possible food insecurity, as Agricultural sector is highly labour intensive.

⑥ Inaccessible and non-Age-sensitive infrastructure hindering aged service delivery.

⑦ Digital divide and exclusion from e-governance based service access.
eg. CoWIN / e-Sanjeevani.

⑧ Disproportionate impact on females enhancing their vulnerability due to their higher socio-economic dependency.

• Measures to address the Challenges →

- ① Enhancing Silver Economy by focusing on aged specific products.
- ② Strengthening GERIATRIC medicine and Healthcare by setting up one Geriatric ward or department in every district hospital.
- ③ Special focus on social bonding and community engagement to counter social isolation & depression.
eg. Japanese society.
- ④ Enhancing health insurance coverage for all aged people. eg. PM-JAY Ayushman Bharat
- ⑤ Digital literacy enhancement to let them avail e-governance services.
- ⑥ Building age-sensitive infrastructure for better accessibility.
- ⑦ Special focus on aged women empowerment eg. Kerala Vayonandana Yojana.
Aged citizens are ultimate source of WISDOM & it's our responsibility to ensure their BEST CARE.

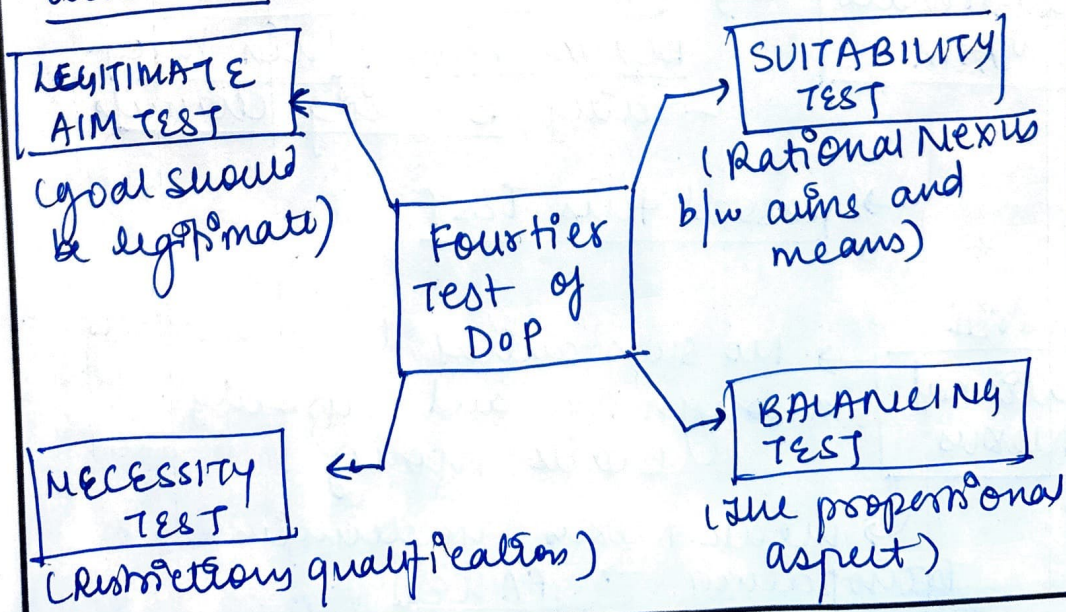
Q17. What do you understand about the doctrine of proportionality in judicial review? Examine how doctrine of proportionality led to Striking down of Electoral bond scheme?

प्रश्न 17. न्यायिक समीक्षा में 'प्रमाणिकता का सिद्धांत' (Doctrine of Proportionality) से आप क्या समझते हैं? इस सिद्धांत के आधार पर चुनावी बॉन्ड योजना को रद्द किए जाने की प्रक्रिया की विवेचना कीजिए।

(Answer in 250 Words)

Ans) The recent striking down of the Electoral Bonds scheme by the Supreme Court using the doctrine of proportionality in Association for Democratic Rights v/soi 2024 has reignited its importance.

◦ Doctrine of proportionality → (DoP)
↳ It requires that any means adopted by the state should be proportional to the aim it seeks to achieve and that any restriction on the fundamental right should be the least restrictive alternative.



◦ Doctrine of proportionality was comp-
rehensively developed by the supreme
court in ① Modern Dental College v/s UOI 2016
② Luthuramany v/s UOI 2017

◦ Application of doctrine in the
Electoral Bonds case →

case → Association for democratic
Rights v/s UOI '2024

SC → struck down EBS due to failure
in compliance to DoP & unconsti-
tional nature.

◦ case specific details -

Test I

Legitimate
Aim

→ EBS intended to curb
black money via integ-
-rating Banking channels

↳ passed this TEST

Test II

Rational
Nexus

→ No substantial link between
anonymity and curbing
black money

↳ weak nexus, undermines
transparency → FAILED

Test-III
Least Restrictive means

→ There are other alternatives like digital disclosures and Regulated donations + Real time portal

but in EBS → opaque model was used curbing citizens RTI (19(1)(a))

↳ Failing this TEST

Test-IV
Balancing Test

→ The Right of a citizen to know about political funding is crucial for equilibrium decision making & deterring QUID-PRO-QUO based industrial-political nexus

→ Hence, this opaqueness is not proportional to anonymous political funding mechanism (EBS), hence, it fails proportionality

The judgement of the supreme court was landmark upholding citizens right, deterring crony capitalism and ensuring political accountability, which are essential for a VIBRANT DEMOCRACY.

Q18. Discuss the contribution of civil society groups for women's effective and meaningful participation and representation in state legislatures in India. (2023)

प्रश्न 18. भारत में राज्य विधानसभाओं में महिलाओं की प्रभावी और सार्थक भागीदारी और प्रतिनिधित्व के लिए नागरिक समाज समूहों के योगदान पर चर्चा करें। (2023)

(Answer in 250 Words)

Ans) The recent passage of the 106th Constitutional amendment Act 2023, giving reservation to women in the Lok Sabha & state legislative assemblies, high. (33%) the important role of CSOs played in it.

• Contribution of CSOs in women's effective participation →

① Data collection from remote, rural and underdeveloped regions to provide accurate picture of women's socio-economic conditions.

eg. NAO Jagori - Safety audits

② Enhancing voter awareness about women issues and special focus on Rural women to ensure that they vote right candidate enhancing their Representation. eg SHY Keela Kudumbashree.

③ Raise the issues of gender inequality in pay levels, remuneration, economic opportunities.

eg. NCO breakthrough.

④ Forwarding women's empowerment & livelihood support via easy credit access.

eg. SEWA (self employed women's Association)

⑤ Raising the critical issue of women's Reproductive and Health Rights in State Assembly.

eg. CARE India | ^{NCO} Chetna
menstrual hygiene | Anaemia awareness

⑥ Enhancing policy orientation towards women safety in public discourse & legal Aid eg. Shakti vahini

⑦ Emphasizing on girls' education & skill development, which is the most potent way to enhance girls' political participation. eg. Nanki Kali (NCO)

◦ Challenges persists →

- ① Urban bias of NCOs as they are concentrated in metro cities.
- ② low funding & finance caps.
- ③ patriarchal resistance (sarpanch pati) ^{Ex.}
- ④ weak monitoring mechanisms.
- ⑤ Bureaucratic & Regulatory hurdles in foreign funding (FCRA Regulations)
- ⑥ low volunteerism & participation.
- ⑦ lack of govt. recognition and support to women centric NCOs

◦ way ahead in enhancing Representation →

- ① Skill & educational development.
 - ② Cont. Recognition to effective NCOs
 - ③ Rural-centric approach to uplift larger number of marginalised women.
 - ④ voter awareness campaigns by NCOs targeting women voters with holistic electoral information.
 - ⑤ Economic empowerment of women to lead them to election contestation.
- "when a women moves, village moves and the Nation moves" - J. L. Nelson.

Q19. Discuss the recommendations made by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law, and Justice to reform legal education in India. How can the establishment of a National Council for Legal Education and Research (NCLER) impact the quality and output of legal education, particularly in research?

प्रश्न 19. भारत में विधिक शिक्षा सुधार हेतु संसद की स्थायी समिति (कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत, विधि और न्याय) द्वारा दी गई सिफारिशों पर चर्चा कीजिए। विशेष रूप से अनुसंधान की गुणवत्ता और परिणाम को लेकर 'राष्ट्रीय विधिक शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान परिषद (NCLER)' की स्थापना के प्रभाव को स्पष्ट कीजिए।

(Answer in 250 Words)

◦ India → >1700 law colleges, yet only few excel in Research & quality education (mainly MLUs)

147th Report 2023 - PSC on Law & Justice

↳ examined the status & reforms in legal education & suggested estb. of NCLER

◦ Key Reconnⁿ →

① setting up of NCLER

② Separation of legal Education Regulation from BCI (Bar Council of India)

- ③ Curriculum modernization
(Integration of Tech, digital, AI, Environmental law & ethics)
- ④ Strengthening research culture
by creating National Research
Fund (NRF) for Law
- ⑤ Faculty development and
Qualitative Accreditation
- ⑥ Improving infrastructure & quality
- ⑦ Move to standardize entry
through CLAT and eSAT via
All India Bar entry Exam.
(AIBEE)

o Role & Impact of NCLER →

- ① Standardization & National Benchmark in Syllabus and Curriculum
- ② Boost to Legal Research
- ③ Quality assurance through Accreditation framework.
- ④ MOUs & foreign exchange programmes of students & faculty to enhance globalization of legal education.
- ⑤ legal education can act as tool for justice delivery via community law centres, compulsory internships in rural areas.

India's R&D spending is mere 0.7% of GDP & that in legal sector is marginal, it is imperative to enhance it to ensure effective legal system in India.

Q20. Examine whether the Aadhaar Payment Bridge System (APBS) has been disadvantageous or problematic for marginalized and vulnerable groups in society.

प्रश्न 20. क्या आधार भुगतान ब्रिज प्रणाली (Aadhaar Payment Bridge System - APBS) समाज के वंचित एवं कमजोर वर्गों के लिए समस्याजनक सिद्ध हुई है? विवेचना कीजिए।

(Answer in 250 Words)

Ans) APBS, launched by NPCI, is an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) mechanism that maps aadhaar numbers to deliver DBT transfers for govt. schemes
eg. (MUNREHA / pensions)
(NSAP)

Disadvantages & problems →

① Digital divide

- lack of digital literacy in rural & remote areas (~ 28% in rural areas)

② Exclusion due to failure of biometric verification.

Especially among — elderly
— disabled
— manual labourers

③ Issue of ghost seeding and ghost accounts → If wrongly seeded, benefits are misdirected.

④ De-duplication without due process

↳ In order to remove ghost amounts, even real beneficiaries are also removed.

⑤ Issues of centralisation & unitary bias of federalism

↳ ABPS is centrally operated with minimal state oversight

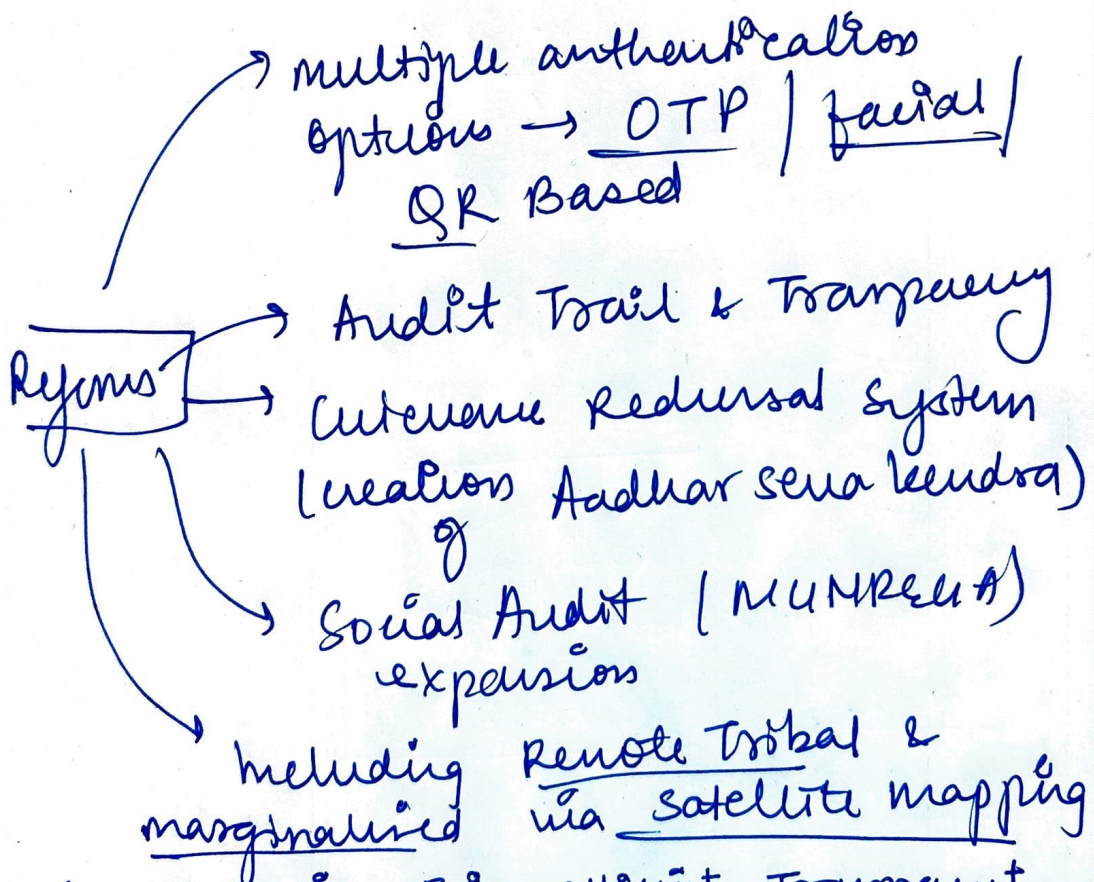
⑥ Last mile delivery issues in distant tribal areas causing their exclusion and marginalisation.

⑦ Absence of a Grievance Redressal mechanism (GRM) at any level leading to unaccountability & exclusion of the aggrieved person.

• consequences for vulnerable population-

A) women → denial of maternity benefits under PMMVY due to ABPS failure (Biometric mismatch)

- B) Elderly → NSAP - pensions - social security withdrawals
- C) Disabled → difficulty in reaching common service centres
- D) Tribal → Non-updated Aadhar & Remote rural exclusion
- E) migrant workers → Frequent Base A/c change causes disturbances & exclusion.



→ An inclusive, fair, efficient, transparent ABPS can revolutionise Benefit delivery system.